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General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
Item 52 of the provisional agenda*
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 12 August 1999 from the representatives of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to convey to you the text of the joint statement and the accompanying letters (see annex) issued at the conclusion of a meeting between the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic, held in London on 13 and 14 July 1999.

We request that the present note and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 52 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Fernando **Petrella**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Argentine Republic
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Stewart **Eldon**
Chargé d'affaires
Permanent Mission of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations

* A/54/150.

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Annex

Joint statement

I Introduction

United Kingdom and Argentine delegations met in London on 13 and 14 July 1999 in a constructive and friendly atmosphere, to continue the dialogue begun in London on 25/27 May and continued in New York on 2 July. The United Kingdom delegation was led by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Robin Cook, and the Argentine delegation by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Worship, Guido Di Tella. The United Kingdom delegation included members of the Falkland Islands Legislative Council.

The two Ministers recalled the Joint Statements made by the UK and Argentine delegations in Madrid on 19 October 1989 and 15 February 1990, which made possible the normalisation of relations between the two countries, and the re-establishment of successful co-operation in the bilateral sphere. They agreed that the formula on sovereignty in paragraph 2 of the Joint Statement of 19 October 1989 applied to this Joint Statement and to its consequences.

They welcomed the improved understanding and degree of reconciliation in the bilateral relationship marked by the exchange of visits of the President of Argentina in October 1998 and HRH The Prince of Wales in March 1999.

The two Parties reached agreement on the following points.

II Access and Air Services

1. Argentine citizens will be able to visit the Falkland Islands, on their own passports. This provision applies equally to Argentine citizens travelling by air and by sea.

2. Full support for the immediate resumption of direct scheduled civil air services between Chile and the Falkland Islands, operated by Lan Chile or any other carrier agreed between the Parties. From 16 October 1999, these services will include stops in mainland Argentina, where they will be able to take on and discharge passengers, cargo and mail.

3. The possibility of flights between the Falkland Islands and third countries was welcomed with the option, from 16 October 1999, of making stops in mainland Argentina.

III Fishing

In the light of the shared commitment to the maintenance and conservation of fish stocks in the South Atlantic, existing levels of co-operation between the United Kingdom and Argentina will be enhanced. In this context officials will meet shortly to consider the question of the relative stability of fish stocks, poaching, and other questions related to it and to recommend coordinated programmes of practical measures with the objective of putting them in place before 9 October 1999.

IV Confidence-Building

With a view to the further development of reconciliation and mutual understanding:

i) A memorial to members of the Argentine armed services killed in action in 1982 will be constructed at the Argentine cemetery in the Falkland Islands.

(ii) The Argentine Government is prepared to look at the question of toponomy in the Falkland Islands. To that end it will continue to consult the appropriate national institutions.

iii) As the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the President of the Argentine Republic agreed in October 1998, the two Governments will continue to work together to evaluate the feasibility and cost of clearing the land mines still present in the Falkland Islands.

V Procedures

i) The implementation of the arrangements detailed in this Joint Statement will be recorded in an exchange of letters between the two Governments.

ii) The Governments will jointly send the text of the present statement and the accompanying letters, in English and Spanish, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for distribution as an official document of the

General Assembly under the appropriate item of the Agenda of the next regular session.

(iii) This joint statement, as well as the arrangements deriving from it, will be kept under review by the two Governments.

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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(Foreign Secretary)

For the Government of the Argentine Republic

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(Foreign Minister)

In the presence of the following members of the:

United Kingdom Delegation

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Argentine Delegation

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Letter dated 14 July 1999 from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina

[Original: English]

I have the honour to refer to our Joint Statement signed in London on 14 July 1999. This Statement provided for an exchange of letters, to which the formula on sovereignty in paragraph 2 of the Joint Statement issued at Madrid on 19 October 1989 applies, to record the understandings between our Governments on its detailed implementation.

In this respect I have the honour to propose the following arrangements:

I Visits

(1) An Argentine passport valid for the duration of the intended stay will be needed by an Argentine citizen for visits to the Falkland Islands.

(2) Argentine passports presented by visitors to the Falkland Islands will be stamped on the same basis as all other passports presented by visitors to the Falkland Islands.

(3) The numbers of visitors to the Falkland Islands at any one time needs to reflect local capacity including the availability of accommodation. Visitors will be required to arrange accommodation in advance and to have a return ticket and sufficient funds for their intended stay.

II Air Services

(1) The Argentine Government will seek the consent of the Chilean Government to the immediate resumption of civil air services between Chile and the Falkland Islands, operated by Lan Chile or any other carrier agreed between the Parties.

(2) It is envisaged that civil air services between Punta Arenas and the Falkland Islands will take place once a week. From 16 October 1999 they will make initially two stops per month at Rio Gallegos, one in each direction. This arrangement will be kept under review.

(3) In the event that the Punta Arenas service does not continue, one of any successor or substituting civil air services will make a stop in mainland Argentina, initially at a rate of two stops per month, one in each direction.

(4) Flight clearances issued by the Argentine authorities for civil air services to the Falkland Islands will enable the carrier or carriers to postpone flights for natural or technical reasons.

(5) Should civil air services between the Falkland Islands and third countries be operated then the option of making stops in mainland Argentina may only be exercised after 16 October 1999 by the operators based on overall commercial considerations and subject to the appropriate authorisation by the parties.

(6) The Argentine Government will seek the support of its Mercosur partners for these arrangements.

III Transit

The Argentine authorities will consider as "in transit" all passengers, cargo and mail arriving by air in the Argentine mainland which is en route to or from the Falkland Islands when they are not destined for the Argentine mainland.

IV Fisheries

(1) The British and Argentine Governments will convene a meeting of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission. It will discuss ways of developing their mutual interest in the conservation of fisheries resources of the South Atlantic including the relative stability of stocks and their economic significance for the area. The meeting's agenda will also include consideration of multilateral arrangements relating to high seas fisheries.

(2) They will, also, explore and recommend practical ways of dealing with poaching in the South Atlantic including amongst other things the exchange of information and data, ways of enhancing fisheries protection measures and helping develop secure fisheries communication channels.

V Confidence-building

The details of the memorial referred to in Paragraph IV (1) of the Joint Statement of 14 July 1999 will be agreed mutually.

VI Humanitarian Visits

(1) The Joint Statement of 14 July 1999 replaces the special arrangements based on humanitarian considerations and the provisions in Paragraph 10 of the Joint Statement of 15 February 1990 for visits to the Falkland Islands by close relatives of Argentine nationals buried there, including civil charter flights between the Argentine mainland and the Falkland Islands for the purpose of these visits.

(2) Argentine nationals visiting the Falkland Islands will continue to be able to visit cemeteries where members of the Argentine armed services killed in action in the 1982 conflict have been buried.

VII Detailed arrangements

Officials of our two Governments will discuss the detailed implementation of these arrangements as a matter of urgency.

I should be grateful if you could confirm that the foregoing represents the understanding of our two Governments with regard to this matter.

(*Signed*) Robin **Cook**

Letter dated 14 July 1999 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: Spanish]

I have the honour to refer to your note of 14 July, which reads in English as follows:

"I have the honour to refer to our Joint Statement signed in London on 14 July 1999. This Statement provided for an exchange of letters, to which the formula on sovereignty in paragraph 2 of the Joint Statement issued at Madrid on 19 October 1989 applies, to record the understandings between our Governments on its detailed implementation.

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(3) In the event that the Punta Arenas service does not continue, one of any successor or substituting civil air services will make a stop in mainland Argentina, initially at a rate of two stops per month, one in each direction.

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VII Detailed arrangements

Officials of our two Governments will discuss the detailed implementation of these arrangements as a matter of urgency.

I should be grateful if you could confirm that the foregoing represents the understanding of our two Governments with regard to this matter."

The Government of Argentina accepts the arrangements proposed in your note of 14 July and has the honour to confirm that your note and this reply represent the understanding of our two Governments with regard to this matter.

(*Signed*) Guido **Di Tella**
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
International Trade and Worship